

# Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update June 14 - 20, 2012

## Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136  
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222  
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 5:00pm

**ROADS:** Major Eastern Sierra roads are open, including HWY 395. Trans Sierra roads - SR 120 (Tioga Pass), SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are open. *Slow for the Cone Zone*, while traveling through construction work zones. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623) or visit the website at [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov) for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at [www.nevadadot.com](http://www.nevadadot.com).

Don't miss the sights - Let someone else drive! **YARTS** (The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System) runs Saturday and Sunday from the communities of Mammoth Lakes, June Lake & Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley during the month of June; for information and a schedule, visit the web at [www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com).

The road to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is closed due to wind storm damage. Pedestrian and bicycle access on the Reds Meadow road, past the Minaret Vista Station, is prohibited due to hazards associated with roadside cleanup and falling of trees. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for Reds Meadow road information, current recreation conditions, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. All roads in the park are open. However, due to extreme heat and remoteness, the Park Rangers recommend travelers stay on the paved roads from June through September. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert locations at higher elevations, to always leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain an up to date backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. For backcountry road information, check the web site at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva) ("Plan Your Visit/Things To Do/Outdoor Activities") and the Morning Report for current conditions.

**WEATHER:** The chance of isolated thunderstorms over the mountains will persist through Saturday morning in the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave. On Saturday, a strong ridge of high pressure begins building, resulting in sunny days and above normal temperatures. Periods of gusty winds are expected early next week. Highs have been in the lower 40s in the mountains, upper 80s in the Owens Valley and near 115 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the 30s in the mountains, to the 80s in Death Valley.

**CAMPGROUNDS:** **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Additional privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities are open throughout the area. The Bishop **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds at Tuttle Creek (fee/drinking water), Horton Creek (fee area/no drinking water) and Crowley Lake are open (fee area/no drinking water). Goodale Creek is closed for renovations.

**INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST**, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, many campgrounds are open. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable, check the web site at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 1-877-444-6777. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE**, use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored.

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) and Crane Flat have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, for a one-month block through [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov); or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, Tamarack Flat (opens 6/20), Porcupine Flat (partial opening 6/16), Yosemite Creek and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For more park information, visit the web site at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

Campsites are available throughout **SEQUOIA/KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS** on a first-come/first-served and reservation basis. For recorded information to plan a visit to the park, call 1-559-565-3341 or [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki).

**DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open campgrounds include: Texas Springs, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Thorndike (no water/free), Mahogany Flat (no water/free) and Wildrose (water/free). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For park information, visit the web [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva).

## Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Transportation

Bureau of Land Management

California - Department of Fish & Game

National Park Service

Mono County

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

USDA - Forest Service

**FISHING:** The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and many lakes and streams are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2012 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting goods stores throughout the region. California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**MOUNTAIN BIKING:** The Mammoth Mountain Bike Park offers some of the world's best mountain biking. The Panorama Gondola is open daily for scenic rides, as well as bike transport. Trails accommodate all skill levels - from first timers to the best of "air" artists. Call 1-760-934-0706 for information, or visit the web at [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com).

**BACKCOUNTRY:** Backpackers should be prepared for sudden weather changes. Sunglasses, sunscreen and mosquito repellent are a must! Watch for lightning, which can occur with thunderstorms. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant damage.

**BEARS** (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Rush Creek/Mammoth lakes trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations.

**WILDERNESS PERMITS** are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas. Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. For more information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, including the new reservation system, please visit the web site at [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo).

**FIRE DANGER: RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT** on the Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts of the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forests, for more information visit the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/htnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/htnf).

**THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: 11th ANNUAL MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA:** Lee Vining - June 15, 16 & 17. An extensive schedule of seminars, field trips, evening presentations, art, music and, of course, great birding are planned for the long weekend! For information call 1-760-647-6595, or visit the web site [www.birdchautauqua.org](http://www.birdchautauqua.org).

**5th ANNUAL LAWS MUSEUM CONCERT,** June 16<sup>th</sup> features Richard Elloyan in concert with The Peavine Pickers. A superb buffet style dinner will be catered by Michelle Denault of Bishop. Dinner starts at 5:00pm, with the concert beginning at 6:00pm. All proceeds support the museum. For more information, visit [www.lawsmuseum.org](http://www.lawsmuseum.org) or call (760) 873-5950.

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

**MONO COUNTY MUSEUM** in Bridgeport is open Tuesday - Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, with great exhibits and photos of old mining days and a fine collection of Paiute baskets.

**BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm. A history talk is presented daily and other interpretive programs are offered; check at the museum for more information. The museum is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Visitors should bring drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

Nature walks are presented on Saturday & Sunday in the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** at 1:00pm. Check at the Visitor Center, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm for a complete list of activities, information and a video presentation on this remarkable lake.

**MONO BASIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM** in Lee Vining's Old School House (at Hess Park) is open Wednesday through Monday, 10:00am to 4:00pm (Sunday opening at noon), with photos, displays and artifacts on the history of the Mono Basin.

Remember the days of the "Slim Princess"! Visit **LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE**, four miles north of Bishop on HWY 6, to learn of early days in the Owens Valley. Laws is open daily 10:00am to 4:00pm.

**EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM** in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz) for information.

Visit the Beverly & Jim Rogers **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**; with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. The museum opens daily at 10:00am; closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

**DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER** at Furnace Creek is open daily, 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Reservations for Scotty's Castle tours are available on the web at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov), or call 1-877-444-6777.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center.

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